

The Red Anchor



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Congress shielded gun companies from lawsuits. Some blue states think they've found a loophole

By **SUSAN HAIGH**
Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) —

Two decades after a Republican-controlled Congress gave gun manufacturers immunity from being sued over crimes committed with their firearms, blue state Democrats upset about gun violence think they've found a way to penetrate that legal shield. Since 2021, 10 states have passed laws intended to make it easier to sue gunmakers and sellers.

The newest such law, in Connecticut, took effect this month. It opens firearms manufacturers and retailers up to lawsuits if they don't take steps to prevent guns from getting into the hands of people banned from owning them, or who should be suspected of intending to use them to hurt themselves or others. Other states have allowed lawsuits against companies deemed to have created a "public nuisance" through the sale or marketing of firearms.

The legislation and flurry of lawsuits against gun companies that followed has outraged gun rights advocates, who accuse the states of trying to skirt the 2005 Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act. That law, which blocked a wave of similar lawsuits two decades ago, says gun companies operating legally cannot be held liable for violent acts committed by people misusing weapons.

"They know these laws are unconstitutional. They know these laws violate the PLCAA," said Lawrence G. Keane, senior vice president for government and public affairs at the National Shooting Sports Founda-



In this Dec. 20, 2012 file photo, law enforcement officials stand outside Riverview Gun Sales, as authorities raid the store in East Windsor, Conn.

tion. "They don't care," he said, adding that the real goal of the lawsuits was to harass the industry and drain it financially.

Gun control groups say the states have simply set clearer requirements for gun companies to ensure their products aren't sold or used illegally.

"These laws don't just open the courthouse doors to survivors. They also force the gun industry to operate more responsibly and, most importantly, can help prevent future tragedies," said Po Murray, chair of the Newtown Action Alliance, a gun-violence prevention group founded after the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting.

Two decades of federal immunity

Congress adopted protections for the gun industry after lawsuits filed in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles and elsewhere attempted to hold the firearms industry responsible for violent

crime.

Many of those suits argued that gun companies had knowingly oversupplied certain markets with cheap handguns and ignored signs that those weapons were being trafficked to places with strict gun controls.

The firearms industry and the National Rifle Association saw the lawsuits as unfair. As long as gun companies weren't breaking rules around sales, they shouldn't be held responsible for violence, they said.

President George W. Bush, a Republican, agreed and signed the shield law in 2005, saying it helped stem "frivolous lawsuits."

"Our laws should punish criminals who use guns to commit crimes, not law-abiding manufacturers of lawful products," Bush said at the time.

A new approach

The legal protections Congress gave the gun industry aren't absolute.

For example, a gunmaker that sells a faulty firearm can still be sued over dangerous defects. Another exception allows lawsuits against companies that knowingly violate laws regulating how firearms are sold and marketed.

When Congress drafted that exception, it cited the example of a shop that knowingly sold a gun to someone banned from owning one, such as a convicted felon.

The new state laws have sought to expand potential liability for gun companies by creating new rules for the industry. New York passed a law in 2021 requiring gun companies to create controls to prevent unlawful possession or use of their products. It also says they cannot knowingly or recklessly "contribute to a condition" that endangers public safety.

"Any business operating in New York must adhere to our laws and if they don't,

they are held accountable," said Democratic state Sen. Zellnor Myrie, the law's chief proponent.

Several states and cities have used the new liability laws to sue Glock over the design of its pistols, saying it is too easy to convert them into automatic weapons.

Many of the new laws follow legal theories from a lawsuit filed against gunmaker Remington by families of Sandy Hook victims. The suit, which was settled for \$73 million in 2022, argued that Remington's marketing violated state consumer protection law.

What's next?

It's too soon to say if courts will uphold the new state laws.

A panel of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in July that New York's law wasn't expressly barred by the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, but that decision is not expected to be the last word. One of the judges, Dennis Jacobs, made it clear he believes the law is vulnerable to future legal challenges, calling it "nothing short of an attempt to end-run PLCAA."

The U.S. Supreme Court, which is controlled 6-3 by Republican-nominated justices, hasn't yet considered the state liability laws, but the gun industry was encouraged when the justices unanimously agreed in June to toss out a \$10 billion lawsuit Mexico filed against top firearms manufacturers claiming their business practices fuel cartel violence.

Justice Elena Kagan, a Democratic nominee, wrote in her opinion how Congress passed PLCAA to halt lawsuits similar to the one filed by Mexico. □

Flight delays become more common as air traffic controllers go without pay during shutdown

By JOSH FUNK

AP Transportation Writer

Air traffic controllers will miss their paychecks Tuesday because of the ongoing government shutdown, raising concerns that mounting financial stress could take a toll on the already understaffed employees who guide thousands of flights each day. Flight delays are becoming more common across the country as more controllers call out sick because the Federal Aviation Administration was already so short on controllers before the shutdown.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy and the president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association Nick Daniels have continued to emphasize the pressure that controllers are feeling. They say the problems are likely to only get worse the longer the shutdown continues. Not only are controllers worrying about how to pay for their mortgages and groceries, but Daniels said some of them are also grappling with how to pay for the medicine needed to keep their children alive. Duffy said he heard from one controller who had to tell his daughter she couldn't join the traveling volleyball team she had earned a spot on because he couldn't afford the cost during the shutdown.

"Air traffic controllers have to have 100% of focus 100% of the time," Daniels said Tuesday at a news conference alongside Duffy at LaGuardia Airport in New York. "And I'm watching air traffic controllers going to work. I'm getting the stories. They're worried about paying for medicine for their daughter. I got a message from a controller that said, 'I'm running out of money. And if she doesn't get the medicine she needs, she dies. That's the end.'"

The FAA restricts the number of flights landing and taking off at an airport anytime there is a shortage of controllers to ensure safety.



Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy, left, and Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., walk through Statuary Hall at the Capitol to a news conference on day 23 of the government shutdown, in Washington, Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025.

Associated Press

Most of the time that has meant delays sometimes hours long at airports like New Jersey's Newark Liberty International Airport or Burbank airport in California. But over the weekend, Los Angeles International Airport actually had to stop all flights for nearly two hours.

Controllers are planning to assemble outside at least 17 airports nationwide Tuesday to hand out leaflets urging an end to the shutdown as soon as possible. Worrying about how to pay their bills is driving some to take second jobs to make ends meet.

The number of controllers calling in sick has increased during the shutdown both because of their frustration with the situation and because controllers need the time off to work second jobs instead of continuing to work six days a week like many of them routinely do. Duffy has said that controllers could be fired if they abuse their sick time, but the vast majority of them have continued to show up for work every day.

Air traffic controller Joe Segretto, who works at a regional radar facility that directs planes in and out of airports in the New York area, said morale is suffering as controllers worry more about money.

"The pressure is real," Segretto said. "We have people trying to keep these airplanes safe. We have trainees that are trying to learn a new job that is very fast-paced, very stressful, very complex now having to worry about how they're going to pay bills."

Duffy said the shutdown is also making it harder for the government to reduce the longstanding shortage of about 3,000 controllers. He said that some students have dropped out of the air traffic controller academy in Oklahoma City, and younger controllers who are still training to do the job might abandon the career because they can't afford to go without pay. □

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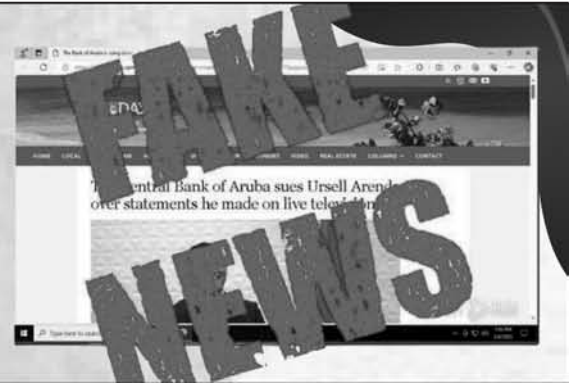
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A North Carolina man is charged with 4 murder counts after telling authorities he killed his kids



Law enforcement vehicles block Wellington Delano Dickens III's home, where remains were found after Dickens told authorities he had killed four of his children, in Zebulon, N.C., on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025.

Associated Press

By **ALLEN G. BREED, GARY D. ROBERTSON and JEFFREY COLLINS**

Associated Press

ZEBULON, N.C. (AP) — A North Carolina man was charged Tuesday with four counts of murder after telling authorities that he had killed his children and after

sheriff's deputies found human remains in the trunk of a vehicle in his home's garage.

Wellington Delano Dickens III, 38, was being held without bond in Johnston County Jail, according to the county's sheriff's office and court records.

Dickens had been charged earlier Tuesday in the death of one of his children, a sheriff's office news release said. Three more murder counts were filed later in the day, records show. Dickens called 911 on Monday evening and told the operator he had

killed the children, the sheriff's statement said.

Johnston County deputies responded and found Dickens' 3-year-old son unharmed inside the residence on the outskirts of Zebulon, which is about 25 miles (40 kilometers) east of Raleigh.

The deputies discovered what the release described as "multiple bodies" in the trunk of a vehicle in the garage and said the remains had been there for a long time. The arrest warrants say authorities believe the victims were killed May 1.

The sheriff's office said investigators believe Dickens killed three of his biological children, ages 6, 9 and 10, as well as his 18-year-old stepchild.

Arrest warrants for three of the counts confirm the victims as 9, 10 and 18. The fourth arrest warrant provided no date of birth for the victim.

Court records show Dickens appeared before a judge Tuesday after-

noon on the initial murder charge. Records showed he will be appointed an attorney, but a name was not immediately listed.

Dickens' wife, Stephanie, died in April 2024, and Dickens said five children lived in their Zebulon home, according to court records from his wife's estate. Her death came just over a year after Dickens' father died when his car crashed into a box truck in Lee County, North Carolina, according to court records.

Dickens' great uncle Charles Moore told WRAL-TV that Dickens was an Iraq War veteran. Moore said he hadn't seen Dickens in about a year but that he seemed like he was doing fine.

A police cruiser with flashing lights blocked the road leading to Dickens' address on Tuesday afternoon, with tents from the sheriff's office and the State Bureau of Investigation erected in the driveway. □



Tylenol pain relief products are shown on a store shelf in Carmel, Ind., Sept. 23, 2025.

Associated Press

Texas lawsuit against companies behind Tylenol asserts unproven claims of autism risk

By The Associated Press

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Tuesday accused the companies behind Tylenol of deceptively marketing the pain reliever to pregnant mothers in a lawsuit that asserted unproven claims that early exposure to acetaminophen increased risk of autism and other disorders. Paxton, an ally of President Donald Trump and a Republican candidate for U.S. Senate, announced the suit against Johnson & Johnson and Kenvue weeks after Trump and Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. asserted an unproven link between the pain reliever and autism while announcing a wide-ranging effort to study the

causes of the complex brain disorder.

The suit alleges that the companies violated Texas consumer protection laws by hiding the danger that acetaminophen, the active ingredient in Tylenol, posed to fetuses and young children and "deceptively marketed Tylenol as the only safe painkiller for pregnant women." It also alleges that Johnson & Johnson fraudulently transferred liabilities arising from Tylenol to Kenvue to shield assets against lawsuits. In 2021, New Brunswick, New Jersey-based J&J announced that it would turn its consumer health business, which makes Tylenol and other products, into a separate company now known as Kenvue. □

U.N. human rights investigator delivers Gaza report from South Africa because of U.S. sanctions

By **FARNOUSH AMIRI** and
JENNIFER PELTZ

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — An independent U.N. investigator again took world nations to task Tuesday for not standing up to the U.S. over sanctions it imposed on her penalties that complicated her ability to deliver in person her latest assessment of Israeli human rights abuses in the Palestinian territories. Calling the sanctions “unlawful and spiteful,” Francesca Albanese told the General Assembly via video from South Africa that it “should already have confronted this dangerous precedent.”

“These measures are an assault on the U.N. itself on its independence, its integrity, its very soul,” she said before turning to her report on Gaza and the West Bank. Hours later, she told reporters that despite the unprecedented attacks against her as a U.N. investigator, powerful countries have not taken “concrete steps beyond declarations and condemnations” since the U.S. decision this summer. The State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Albanese demurred when



Francesca Albanese, the U.N. special rapporteur for the West Bank and Gaza, is interviewed by the Associated Press in Rome, July 29, 2025.

asked whether the United Nations and its officials, including Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, had supported her during this time, saying she'd rather not comment.

An Italian human rights lawyer, Albanese is a “special rapporteur” an outside expert who is tapped by the U.N. Human Rights Council to assess human rights in a particular place or subject area. The rapporteurs have

no formal authority, but their views can inform world opinion and prosecutors at the International Criminal Court and other venues.

As the special rapporteur for the West Bank and Gaza since May 2022, Albanese has issued trenchant critiques of Israel's policies in the territories and, especially, its war against Hamas in Gaza. She has repeatedly described Israel's actions as “genocide” and “apart-

heid.” Albanese repeated those assertions Tuesday as she described a Gaza that “remains strangled, starved, shattered” during a shaky ceasefire that she portrayed as far short of a plan for peace.

Israel and the U.S., its key ally, vociferously spurn Albanese's claims.

In response to her presentation Tuesday, Danny Danon, the Israeli ambassador to the U.N., blasted

her report as “shameful” and “one-sided” and disparaged Albanese personally, calling her a “witch.”

“She has taken the word ‘genocide,’ born from the ashes of the Holocaust, and turned it into a weapon, not to defend the victims of history, but to attack them,” Danon said during a U.N. committee meeting. Multiple other countries' representatives condemned his comments.

Israel has long taken issue with the Human Rights Council and its rapporteurs, seeing them as biased.

In announcing the sanctions against Albanese in July, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio accused her of having “spewed unabashed antisemitism, expressed support for terrorism, and open contempt for the United States, Israel and the West.”

Albanese rejected those assertions and countered that she was being attacked for doing her job — and that she wouldn't stop. “I did everything I did in good faith, and knowing that, my commitment to justice is more important than personal interests,” she told the Associated Press in a July interview. □

Dutch election campaign in final stretch as Geert Wilders seeks second victory

By **MIKE CORDER**

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The Dutch election campaign was on the home stretch Tuesday, a day before the country goes to the polls in a knife-edge vote with anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders seeking a second straight victory for his far-right Party for Freedom.

The campaign has largely focused on two main issues that also resonate throughout Europe: how to rein in the number of migrants and tackling a crisis of housing affordability and availability. Issues such as the climate and defense spending have taken a

back seat. Polls suggest that Wilders' party, which is calling for a total halt to asylum-seekers entering the Netherlands, remains on track to be the largest bloc in the 150-seat House of Representatives, but other more moderate parties are closing the gap.

Christian Democrat leader Henri Bontenbal, who is tipped as a possible prime minister, said that the vote also is about who will be prime minister for the next four-year term.

“In the end, it is about the question of who is going to lead the next coalition, what kind of politics are we going to see in the coming years,” he said on

national broadcaster NOS. “We have seen a lot of chaos and I think the Netherlands now hankers for something different.” Polls

open across the country at 7:30 a.m. (0630 GMT) on Wednesday and close at 9 p.m. (2000 GMT). Broadcasters publish an exit poll

as soon as voting ends and update it a half-hour later. After years in opposition, Wilders' victory in the last election meant his party was the largest in the outgoing four-party coalition, but he torpedoed the administration after failing to push through all of what he called Europe's toughest asylum and immigration policies.

He withdrew his party's ministers in June, triggering the fourth general election in a decade and ensuring that the administration led by Prime Minister Dick Schoof will go down in history as one of the shortest-lived Dutch governments at just 11 months. □



Far-right anti Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders campaigns in Volendam, Netherlands, Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025.

Associated Press

Pressure builds on Prince Andrew to vacate mansion he rents for the nominal sum of a peppercorn

By **BRIAN MELLEY**
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The latest chapter in the saga haunting the House of Windsor could be called "The Prince and the Peppercorn."

Prince Andrew, who recently relinquished his formal titles after new revelations about his relationship with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, is under pressure to vacate his royal digs where he lives nearly rent-free near Windsor Castle.

The demoted duke occupies Royal Lodge, a sprawling mansion that eclipses its modest name, for the sum of a single peppercorn a year — a nominal figure that dates back centuries to when the spice was rare and fetched a heftier price. A steady stream of negative headlines about Andrew and Epstein in the past two weeks led the prince to renounce his titles, including Duke of York, as the monarchy tried to distance itself from decades of tawdry headlines about Andrew's suspicious business deals, inappropriate behavior and controversial friendships.

But that has not been



Britain's Prince Andrew looks on during an event at the residence of the British Ambassador in New Delhi, India, March 10, 2010.

enough to silence critics who have called for more severe measures including an act of Parliament to officially strip him of his dukedom, pry away his title as prince or oust him from his luxurious home.

King Charles III, who has skirted the scandal, nearly had to confront it face-to-face Monday when a heckler hollered at him out-

side Lichfield Cathedral.

The man was shouted down by others and eventually pulled from sight, but not before questioning how long he had known about his brother and Epstein and then asked: "Have you asked the police to cover up for Andrew?"

The incident captured on video was broadcast on evening newscasts. The

Daily Telegraph's front page headline Tuesday said: "Headache for the palace as King heckled over Andrew."

British news outlets have reported that Charles previously wanted to evict his brother from Royal Lodge in the past over other uncomfortable revelations. But questions about Andrew's housing have multi-

plied after emails emerged earlier this month showing he had remained in contact with Epstein longer than he previously admitted.

That news was followed by publication of a posthumous memoir by Epstein accuser Virginia Roberts Giuffre, who alleged she had sex with Andrew when she was 17.

"Nobody's Girl" detailed three alleged sexual encounters with Andrew, who she said acted as if he believed "having sex with me was his birthright."

Andrew, 65, has long denied Giuffre's claims, but stepped down from royal duties after a disastrous November 2019 BBC interview in which he attempted to rebut her allegations. Andrew paid millions in an out-of-court settlement in 2022 after Giuffre filed a civil suit against him in New York. Giuffre died by suicide in April at the age of 41.

Andrew has occupied Royal Lodge for two decades. He signed a 75-year lease in 2003 with the Crown Estate, a portfolio of properties that is nominally owned, but not controlled, by the monarch. □

Associated Press

Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro appeals his 27-year prison sentence

By **ELÉONORE HUGHES**
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Lawyers for Brazilian former President Jair Bolsonaro filed an appeal to reduce his prison sentence for attempting a coup after his 2022 electoral defeat.

Judges in September convicted Bolsonaro of trying to overthrow democracy and sentenced him to 27 years and three months in jail. He has been under house arrest since August. In an 85-page document sent to the Supreme Court on Monday and shared with The Associated Press on Tuesday, lawyers said that the conviction and sentence entailed "profound injustices."

Lawyers argued there were "ambiguities, omissions, contradictions and obscurities" in the court's decision. Bolsonaro has denied wrongdoing. He was convicted of attempting a coup after losing the 2022 race to President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in a plot that prosecutors alleged included plans to kill Lula. He was found guilty on other charges including participating in an armed criminal organization and attempted violent abolition of the democratic rule of law.

In their appeal, lawyers argued Bolsonaro should not be convicted of both organizing a coup and attempting to violently abolish democracy, on the grounds

that the two charges overlap and therefore cumulative penalties are unjust. They also cited Justice Luiz Fux, who was the only dissenting vote on the five justice panel that convicted Bolsonaro, and argued that even if Bolsonaro had attempted a coup, he "deliberately interrupted the course of events" and did not go through with it.

Lawyers filed motions of clarification, which seek to correct a flaw in the reasoning of a decision rather than change it.

João Pedro Padua, a law professor at the Fluminense Federal University, said that this kind of appeal is very unlikely to reduce Bolsonaro's sentence.



Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro stands at the entrance of his home while he is under house arrest in Brasilia, Brazil, Sept. 2, 2025.

Associated Press

To file an appeal that could substantially modify the decision, the Supreme Court usually requires at least two dissenting votes.

There is no limit on how many motions for clarification can be filed, but the Supreme Court may

deem successive filings an attempt to delay the final judgment.

Such a strategy is "risky" for Bolsonaro's lawyers, as they "could give the Supreme Court an excuse to declare the judgment final right away," Padua said. □

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Meet Aruba's biggest hero, Boy Ecury

(Oranjestad)—As part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and due to its strategic geolocation, Aruba was unexpectedly involved in the Second World War. As is known around the globe, this chapter in world history is one of the most tragic yet, and many soldiers and rebels have died on the front line during this time.

One of those rebels who have fought against the Nazi regime, was an Aruban named Segundo Jorge Adelberto "Boy" Ecury. Born in Aruba on April 23rd, 1922, Boy spent his childhood on the island, before being sent to The Netherlands by his father when he was 15 years old to continue his studies abroad. This was in 1937, three years before WWII broke out.

During the war, he actively participated in the rebellion in The Netherlands against the Nazi regime, but his rebellious streak and constant drive to fight for justice began even before the war broke out. Being a person of color with a Haitian heritage living in The Netherlands made him vulnerable to discrimination, and this inspired him to be an activist, to stand up and fight against discrimination and oppression.

After seeing the horrific bombings of Rotterdam first-hand, he decided to join the resistance. At the same time, he was still studying and living with family in Tilburg. It was there where he met people who printed and distributed the rebellion newspaper. This would be the first of three rebellion groups that he would join throughout his 4-year service to the resistance.

Boy's primary task as member of the group was to

distract the German soldiers while others ran into hiding into alleyways. This he was able to do because of his skin color and confronting demeanor. Boy also participated in the multiple sabotaging operations against the German military occupying The Netherlands. These included bombings on German military trucks and trains. The group also helped people go into hiding, as well as opened fire against allies of the Nazi regime. In these operations, Boy really stood out for his cold bloodedness.

In 1943, he received a notice to be placed for work in Germany. This he refused, of course, and went into hiding using multiple addresses in multiple cities. Because he was a wanted man, he of course could not continue to be active as a rebel. However, stubborn and naturally rebellious as he was, he always tried to join in on the operations regardless.

In 1944, after his friend Luis de Lannoy, a fellow rebel from Curacao, was arrested and executed, he moved to Delft, where he joined his third and last group in Rotterdam. During this time, he wrote a goodbye letter for his family, possibly knowing the risks of him being active again in the big cities. Eventually, he proved himself right. On November 5th, 1944, Boy Ecury was arrested by German soldiers. He was placed in the "Oranjehotel" prison in Scheveningen, The Hague, where he was questioned. Despite being given away by an acquaintance, he himself never gave away the names of his comrades. Famously, he told his cell mate: "I will die with a smile on my face." On November 6th, 1944, Ecury was executed.



He was only 22 years old.

Ecury was buried with military honor. In 1949, the Aruban Government erected a monumental bust of him in front of what is now the linear park trail, and in 1984 he received the Resistance Memorial Cross postmortem.

Boy's life motto was this: "In my father's house, there is no place for a traitor." □

Source: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.



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Aruba's underwater wonderland



(Oranjestad)—Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.

Tres Trapi

Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamentu, Papiamentu is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken word war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban cul-



ture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven. □



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Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill

(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one

of the best views you can get on Aruba.

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamanota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park.

The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first

built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the government decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The



view at this resting stop is also a sight to see.

The best time to climb the hill would be early in the

morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day. □

Create museum memories

Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you the these locations.

Museum of Industry Aruba
Museum of Industry in San Nicolas, better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum presents the history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments fund in 2003 so it could be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Fundacion Museo Arubano (FMA), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban culture sector, history, and nature. The

museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 1 pm.

For more information check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in downtown Oranjestad has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical

buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997 the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004 a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006 restauration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the new to build exhibition space. In December 2007 the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the

Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts an attractive public program including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm.

For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □





Article by Etnia Nativa

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Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Episode CCCXXVII -327

All Hallows' Eve

The narrative of Etnia Nativa—which means Native Ethnicity—highlights the importance of recovering and preserving Aruba's cultural identity and heritage. Through this platform, we share an authentic native perspective, educate the public, and inspire readers to adopt a mindset of being an "island caretaker."

In this episode, we explore the origin and significance of Halloween, a word meaning 'All Saints' Eve.' Despite its global popularity, not all countries celebrate this holiday of costumes, candy, and scares, as cultural, religious, and political factors often influence whether—and how—it is observed.

Halloween is believed to have its roots in both Christian traditions and ancient pagan practices. However, in some countries—such as Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Malaysia—it is considered incompatible with Islamic culture. While these nations prioritize their own religious and family celebrations, in places like Australia, Argentina, and other parts of the world, Halloween has not become deeply ingrained. In contrast, other countries have gradually adopted the holiday. This is the case on our island, where Halloween was not originally part of local customs but arrived with the Lago refinery and was later integrated into the tourism system, primarily to cater to American visitors. In recent years, Halloween has become increasingly popular in Aruba, driven primarily by commercial interests.

The first inhabitants of Aruba were animists, practicing a spiritual form of worship believing that everything could harbour a soul or spirit for good or for bad. With the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors, the natives adopted Christianity in order to keep their freedom

and abduction away. Catholicism became so deeply rooted that a large percentage of the population remains Catholic today, despite Roman Catholicism having been banned after the arrival of the Dutch (see episode 212, 'Building Aruban Education').

Until the late 1970s, it was very common to see Aruban women wearing fine lace mantillas adorned with intricate designs, a striking symbol of the island's enduring Catholic heritage.

Overall, Aruba's religious history reflects a combination of Spanish and Dutch influence, alongside the persistence of Catholic priests from the mainland who maintained regular contact with the local Amerindian population despite official prohibitions (see episode 257, 'The Holy Cross of Santa Cruz').

Modern Halloween customs are believed to have been influenced by the folk traditions and beliefs of Celtic-speaking peoples, many of whom practiced their own animistic religions often referred to as old or pagan religion. The holiday began spreading to America becoming official for a few congregations after 1916, when Anglican settlers in the American South and Catholics in Maryland incorporated Halloween into their religious calen-

dars. However, Puritans in New England strongly opposed the celebration, and historical almanacs suggest that Halloween was not yet widely observed across the country.

The word 'Halloween' comes from 'All Hallows' Eve,' meaning the eve of All Saints' Day on November 1, followed by All Souls' Day on November 2. Both holidays hold deep significance for the Catholic Church, emphasizing remembrance and spirituality. In Mexico, for example, these traditions are celebrated as a living culture and a tribute to the deceased.

Since the time of the early Church, major Christian holidays—such as Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost—were preceded by vigils the night before, as was All Saints' Day. These three days are collectively known as Allhallowtide (all-hallow-tide), a period during which Western Christians honor all the saints and pray for the souls of the recently deceased who have not yet reached Heaven.

Explore Aruba's Roots at Etnia Nativa
If you've enjoyed discovering our ancestral stories and want to delve deeper into the true identity of the Aruban people, we invite you to experience Etnia Nativa—the Caribbean's only "living museum" of its kind, celebrating the island's rich mestizaje (cultural blending). □

*Beloved WASP ancestors.
Photo courtesy of Etnia Nativa.*



Founded in 1994, Etnia Nativa has been a cultural pioneer—co-founding Aruba's National Park, the Archaeological Museum, artisan foundations, and several grassroots initiatives dedicated to heritage and conservation. But Etnia Nativa isn't just a place — it's a gateway. Quietly tucked away near the high-rise hotels, this private residence also serves as a cultural sanctuary, unknown to most tourists. And that's part of its magic. Intentionally exclusive, it welcomes only those with a genuine curiosity and a thirst for authentic discovery.

Connect with the spirit and soul of Aruba's ancient heritage through a one-of-a-kind experience.

WhatsApp: +297 592 2702 or
Email: etnianativa03@gmail.com

Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

(Oranjestad)—At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a “must see” landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when you are visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the “T” junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor

Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the “fluke” or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

“According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of



the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain.”

Story 2:

“Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them.”

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of

Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The “anchor”, which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated “To All Seamen” on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated “To All Seamen” in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The Best Time to Visit

When you are planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops.

With that being said, we have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 38 Sulking

1 Drag participant 39 Refinery rocks

7 "Troy" star 40 Casual eateries

11 New York lake

12 In — (lined up)

13 Add yeast to

14 Rake 9 Resort 25 Elvis's birthplace

15 Titled women 3 Spanish "I love you" 10 Suit 28 Shopping aids

16 Book category 4 Rosie, for one 16 Blunders 30 Skip the ceremony

17 Place for a coin 5 Lyric 20 City-based 31 More rational

18 Outlaw 6 Dapper fellow 22 Colorful bird 32 Easy gaits

19 Continental coin 7 Kitchen gadget 23 Surround 34 Skimp skirt

21 Cart puller 8 Cell feature 24 Padded foot-stool 36 Young one

22 Make the biosphere suitable for humans

25 Sandy color

26 Small statue

27 Bare

29 Ordeal

33 Michael of Monty Python

34 Back biter

35 They may be inflated

36 Geisha garb

37 For fear that



DOWN

1 Cargo spots

2 Basketball's

3 Shaquille

4 Spanish "I love you"

5 Rosie, for one

6 Lyric poems

7 Dapper fellow

8 Kitchen gadget

9 Cell feature

10 Colorful bird

11 Surround

12 Padded foot-stool

13 Young one

14 Sandy color

15 Small statue

16 Bare

17 Ordeal

18 Michael of Monty Python

19 Back biter

20 They may be inflated

21 Geisha garb

22 For fear that

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-4 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

UVJ KYGO QV OYQ VYQZOYB

VE UVJ'BB SEU JT. YDUAVSU

FDVHR QKYQ. — FYU

QKVZTRVD

Cryptoquote: A PERSON IS ALWAYS STARTLED WHEN HE HEARS HIMSELF SERIOUSLY CALLED AN OLD MAN FOR THE FIRST TIME. — OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, SR.

Cruise ship Schedule: Oct. 28, 29 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
TUE	28	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
WED	29	DISNEY MAGIC	07.45	22.00	B	1
		SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1

Cruise ship Schedule: Nov. 2, 4, 5 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
SUN	02	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	04	SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	C	1
		OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	I	1
WED	05	EMERALD PRINCESS	09.00	18.00	B	1
		CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE	08.00	23.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1

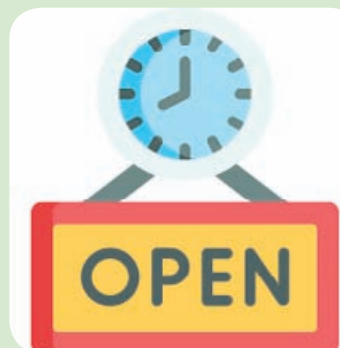
Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

	6	9						7
	8	5		2	9		6	
			5			8		
				1				2
			7	9		3		6
9		6						
8		3	1					4
	7	4	9	3	8		2	
1							3	

Difficulty: ★★★

10/29

Answer to previous puzzle

9	8	5	7	6	3	1	2	4
4	1	7	8	9	2	3	6	5
6	2	3	1	4	5	7	8	9
2	4	1	6	3	8	9	5	7
5	7	6	9	2	4	8	3	1
8	3	9	5	1	7	6	4	2
1	9	4	2	8	6	5	7	3
7	6	2	3	5	1	4	9	8
3	5	8	4	7	9	2	1	6

Difficulty: ★★

10/28

By the Numbers: Why trick-or-treaters may bag more gummy candy than chocolate this Halloween

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Business Writer

Ghouls, goblins ... and gummy bears. Trick-or-treaters may find more fruity candy than chocolate among their Halloween handouts this year. That should be fine with younger consumers,

who have been gravitating for years toward non-chocolate candies like gummies, freeze-dried treats and other sweets that come in a variety of shapes, colors and flavors. Last year, 52% of the total volume of Halloween candy sold in the U.S. was made of chocolate, according to Dan Sadler, a principal for client insights at the market research company Circana. But in the 12 weeks ending Oct. 5, chocolate accounted for 44% of the Halloween candy sold in the U.S. Prices may be part of it. Global cocoa prices more than quadrupled between January 2023 and January 2025 due to poor harvests in West Africa, where 70% of cocoa is produced. Chocolate candy is lot more expensive as a result. Chocolate Halloween candy in the U.S. cost an average of \$8.02 per pound in the 12 weeks ahead of Oct. 5, while non-chocolate candy cost an average of \$5.77 per pound, Sadler said.

Here's a look at Halloween candy by the numbers:

\$7.4 billion

The amount Americans spent on Halloween candy in 2024, according to the National Confectioners Association. That was 18% of all candy sales last year.

30 million

The number of M&M's that



Hershey's chocolate are displayed on shelves at a grocery store in Mount Prospect, Ill., Monday, Oct. 20, 2025.

Associated Press

Mars Inc. makes each day at the facility in Topeka, Kansas, that produces its Halloween candy.

\$10,710

The price for a metric ton of cocoa in January, which was an all-time high. Cocoa prices have fallen since then, but Sadler said it will take months for consumers to see the impact of those lower prices.

1,254

Miles between Topeka and New York. If you stretched out all the Snickers bars that Mars makes annually in Topeka, you could make that trip seven times.

61%

Percentage of U.S. consumers who bought candy for trick-or-treaters last year, according to Hershey. Hershey said 45% of consumers reported buying Halloween candy for themselves.

40.8%

Market share for Hershey in Halloween candy last year, making it the top performer. Hershey said its Halloween assortment which includes Reese's, Kit Kat and Almond Joy was the top seller last Halloween.

July 5

Date which Mars started rolling Halloween candy out to U.S. stores this year. □



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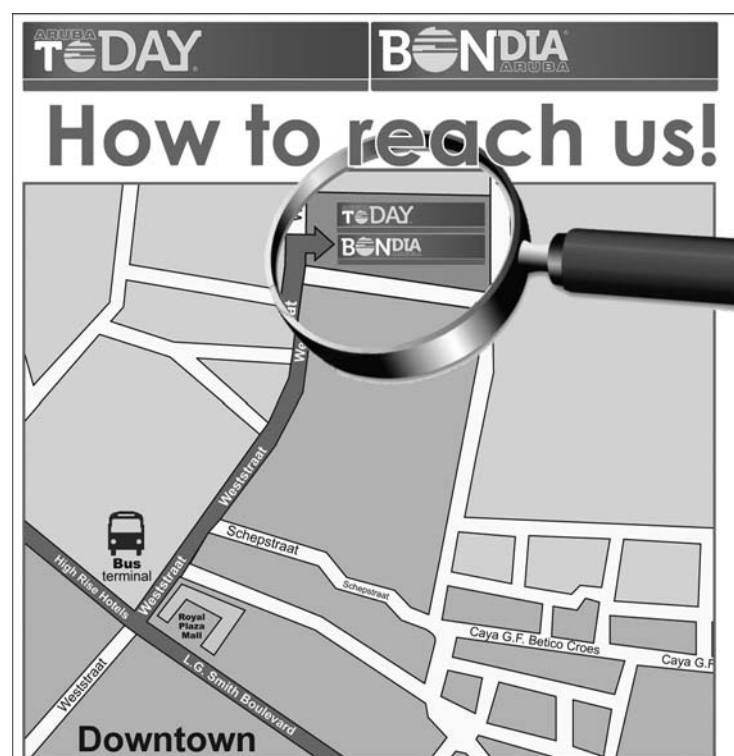
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San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
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PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Sta. Anna: Tel.586 8181

San Nicolas:

Aloe:Tel.584 4606

OTHER

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
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EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
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Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

OpenAI may move forward with new business structure, partnership with Microsoft, regulators say

By **MATT O'BRIEN** and **THALIA BEATY**

OpenAI said Tuesday it has reorganized its ownership structure and converted its business into a public benefit corporation and two crucial regulators, the Delaware and California attorneys general, said they would not oppose the plan. The restructuring paves the way for the ChatGPT maker to more easily profit off its artificial intelligence technology even as it remains technically under the control of a nonprofit.

Delaware Attorney General Kathy Jennings and California Attorney General Rob Bonta said in separate statements that they would not object to the proposal, seemingly bringing to an end more than a year of negotiations and announcements about the future of OpenAI's governance and the power that for-profit investors and its nonprofit board will have over the organization's technology.

The company also said it has signed a new agreement with its longtime backer Microsoft that gives the software giant a roughly 27% stake in OpenAI's new for-profit corporation but changes some of the details of their close partnership.

The attorneys general of



The logo of Microsoft is seen outside its French headquarters in Issy-les-Moulineaux, outside Paris on May 13, 2024.

Delaware, where OpenAI is incorporated, and California, where it is headquartered, had both said they're investigating the proposed changes.

"We will be keeping a close eye on OpenAI to ensure ongoing adherence to its charitable mission and the protection of the safety of all Californians," said Bonta. OpenAI said it completed its restructuring "after nearly a year of engaging in constructive dialogue" with the offices in both states.

"OpenAI has completed its recapitalization, simplifying its corporate structure,"

said a blog post Tuesday from Bret Taylor, the chair of OpenAI's board of directors.

"The nonprofit remains in control of the for-profit, and now has a direct path to major resources before AGI arrives."

AGI stands for artificial general intelligence, which OpenAI defines as "highly autonomous systems that outperform humans at most economically valuable work." OpenAI was founded as a nonprofit in 2015 with a mission to safely

build AGI for humanity's benefit. It later started a for-profit arm.

Microsoft invested its first \$1 billion in OpenAI in 2019 and the two companies formed an agreement that made Microsoft the exclusive provider of the computing power needed to build OpenAI's technology. In turn, Microsoft heavily used the technology behind ChatGPT to enhance its own AI products.

The two companies first revealed in January that they were altering that agreement, enabling San

Francisco-based OpenAI to build its own computing capacity, "primarily for research and training of models." That coincided with OpenAI's announcements of a partnership with Oracle and SoftBank to build a massive new data center in Abilene, Texas. It's since announced more such projects planned in the U.S., Asia, Europe and South America, along with big deals with chipmakers like Nvidia, AMD and Broadcom.

But other parts of its agreements with Microsoft remained up in the air as the two companies appeared to veer further apart before reaching a tentative new agreement in September.

OpenAI had previously said its own nonprofit board will decide when AGI is reached, effectively ending its Microsoft partnership. But it now says that "once AGI is declared by OpenAI, that declaration will now be verified by an independent expert panel," and that Microsoft's rights to OpenAI's confidential research methods "will remain until either the expert panel verifies AGI or through 2030, whichever is first."

Microsoft will also retain some commercial rights to OpenAI products "post-AGI" and through 2032. □

Associated Press

Elon Musk launches Grokipedia to compete with online encyclopedia Wikipedia



Elon Musk attends the finals for the NCAA wrestling championship, Saturday, March 22, 2025, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

Elon Musk has launched Grokipedia, a crowdsourced online encyclopedia that the billionaire seeks to position as a rival to Wikipedia.

Writing on social media, Musk said that "Grokipedia.com version 0.1 is now live" and promised that "Version 1.0 will be 10X better."

Grokipedia's goal is "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth," he said. Musk has previously criticized Wikipedia for being filled with "propaganda" and called for people to stop donating to the site. In September he announced that his artificial intelligence company xAI was working on Grokipedia.

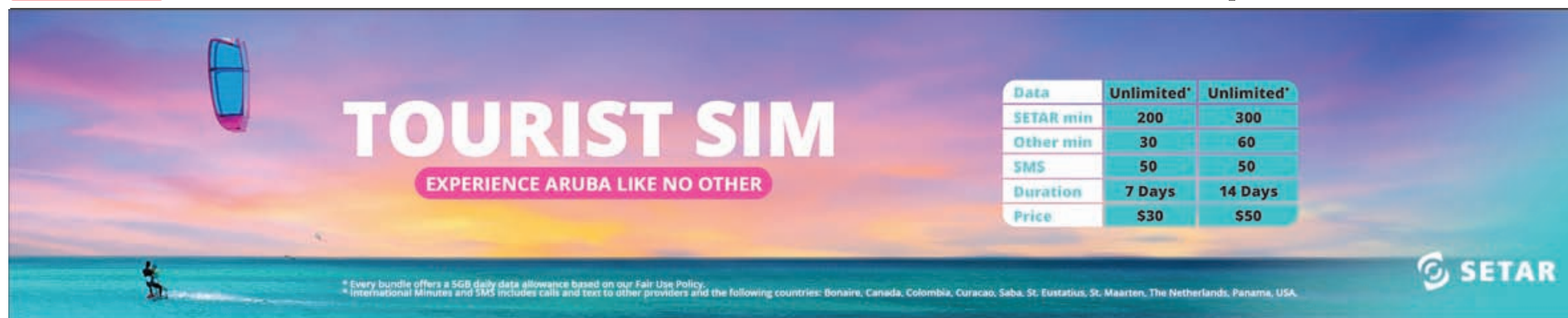
The Grokipedia site has a minimalist appearance with little beyond a search bar that users can type in queries. It states

that it has 885,279 articles. Wikipedia, meanwhile, says it has more than 7 million articles in English.

Like Wikipedia, users can search for articles on various topics such as Taylor Swift, the baseball World Series, or Buckingham Palace.

While Wikipedia is written and edited by volunteers, it's unclear how exactly Grokipedia articles are put together. Reports suggest the site is powered by the same xAI model that underpins Musk's Grok chatbot, but some articles are seemingly adapted from Wikipedia.

Grokipedia's entry on Wikipedia accuses the site of having "systemic ideological biases particularly a left-leaning slant in coverage of political figures and topics." □



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SETAR

Why the Philadelphia Eagles' 'tush push' play is causing such a stir

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**
AP Pro Football Writer

The tush push has proved hard to stop, difficult to decipher and almost impervious to officiating in 2025. When the Green Bay Packers last offseason proposed banning the play that was perfected by the defending Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles, the counterargument basically was this:

If you aren't a fan of the play, then put a stop to it on the field itself, not in the rule book.

Rendered ineffective, the tush push might just get relegated to the NFL's dust bin alongside the banned trio of horse-collar tackles, hip-drop stops and clothesline trip-ups.

Yet, even as teams come up with ways to stuff the tush push, officials have let the Eagles get away with infractions on the play. The Eagles' offensive linemen routinely appear to get a head-start on the play without getting whistled for



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts leaves after an NFL football game against the New York Giants on Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025, in Philadelphia.

a false start. Sometimes, they've lined up offsides. And now, even a fumble was nullified by an early whistle Sunday.

In Philadelphia's 38-20 win over the New York Giants on Sunday, Jalen Hurts lost the ball when he stretched

his arms after gaining a first down on a tush push on fourth-and-1 from the Giants' 11-yard line.

Kayvon Thibodeaux ripped the ball out of Hurts' hands and recovered it in a game that was tied at 7-7 at the time. A whistle could be

heard on replay about the same time or after the ball came out but officials ruled Hurts' forward progress had been stopped. The Eagles kept the ball and finished the drive with a touchdown.

"To me, he is pushing for-

ward, he is reaching," Fox rules analyst Dean Blandino said on the broadcast. "That is an early whistle in my opinion."

"The refs have a hard job because they don't know when to stop it," Thibodeaux said about the tush push.

The latest tush push stir was one of several erroneous whistles in Week 8, including one that took away a defensive touchdown from the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

But the whistle that negated Hurts' fumble was in the spotlight because so many times this season the Eagles have benefitted from questionable rulings on the play, which is typically run at the goal line.

Giants coach Brian Daboll tried to challenge the ruling on the field but the officiating crew told him he couldn't challenge whether or not it was a fumble because the whistle had blown the play dead. □

Associated Press

Lindsey Vonn says she has 'nothing to prove' as she prepares to return to the Olympics

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Lindsey Vonn feels like she has "nothing to prove" in her bid to return to the Olympics at the age of 41, more than two decades since her first.

The American ski great with medals in multiple disciplines said Tuesday she's not worried about tarnishing her legacy after coming out of retirement several years after she last competed.

"I don't think anyone remembers Michael Jordan's comeback," Vonn said

at the Team USA Olympic Media Summit ahead of the 2026 Milan-Cortina Games. "I don't think that tarnished his legacy at all. ... I've already succeeded. I've already won."

A partial knee replacement in the spring of 2024 paved the way for her return to racing with Vonn setting her sights on skiing in one of her favorite places in Cortina, where she got on the podium at a World Cup event for the first time and broke the Women's World Cup wins record. She called it the perfect way to end her career.

"I don't think I would have tried this comeback if the Olympics weren't in Cortina," Vonn said. "If it had been anywhere else, I would probably say it's not worth it. But, for me, there's something special about Cortina that always pulls me back and it's pulled me back one last time."

Vonn is set to train at Copper Mountain in Colorado in November and race again in St. Moritz, Switzerland, in December. Assuming she qualifies, she plans to compete in the downhill, super-G and team combined races.

"That's dependent on results, but that is my intent," Vonn said. "There's not a

world in which I would be happy with not qualifying for the Olympics. □



U.S. alpine skier Lindsey Vonn speaks during a news conference during Team USA Media Summit, on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025, in New York.

Associated Press

Shohei Ohtani wants others to follow his two-way footsteps. Teammates don't think it's possible

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Of the 20,000-plus players to appear in Major League Baseball, only one has been an All-Star as a pitcher and batter. Shohei Ohtani is unique, with a skillset and drive that hasn't been duplicated in 150 years. "It's aweing," Dodgers teammate Freddie Freeman said. "Sometimes you just like to make sure it's not a machine under there." Ohtani will showcase his unique two-way talent when he starts World Series Game 4 on the mound for Los Angeles against the Toronto Blue Jays on Tuesday night. The start comes about 17 hours after he finished



Los Angeles Dodgers' Shohei Ohtani celebrates a double against the Toronto Blue Jays during the first inning in Game 3 of baseball's World Series, Monday, Oct. 27, 2025, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

College baseball has an award for best two-play player, named after John Olerud, an All-American first baseman and pitcher at Washington State in the 1980s. He became an All-Star first baseman during a 17-season big league career but never pitched professionally.

Olerud Award winners include Brendan McKay, Spencer Schwellenbach and Paul Skenes, who hit 24 homers with 81 RBIs in 100 games at Air Force in 2021 and 2022. His two-way career ended when he transferred to LSU for 2023.

"They stopped putting me in BP groups," Skenes said. "I went to LSU and I stopped catching, but I was hitting still. And I wanted to keep hitting as long as I could, but the upside on the mound, I think, was a lot better than upside hitting. So kind of gave it up, and I wasn't too broken up about it because we had the opportunity to win the national championship, and we ended up doing it. So I think it was worth it."

Freeman was once a two-way player at El Modena High School. He doesn't think about what could have been if he had remained on the mound.

"If I kept pitching my arm would have blown out, I promise you," he said. "My elbow was hurting in high school." Ohtani at age 31 has a .282 average with 280 homers and 669 RBIs in eight major league seasons more career home runs than Hall of Famers Joe Morgan, Derek Jeter and Paul Molitor.

And Ohtani is 39-20 with a 3.00 ERA on the mound with 670 strikeouts in 528 2/3 innings, limited to 100 starts because he didn't pitch in 2019 and 2024 following elbow operations. Ohtani's 98.4 mph four-seam fastball velocity ranked seventh this season among starters who threw 500 or more pitches and 94.9 mph exit velocity on batted balls ranked third among hitters who saw 500 pitches, trailing only Oneil Cruz and Aaron Judge. □

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